POLICY DRIVEN AUTONOMIC COMPUTING –

PROGRAMMATIC POLICY DEFINITIONS

5 ## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An autonomic computing system and method determine that a desired end state cannot be reached, determine that an acceptable sub-state can be reached using at least one of priority ratings, conditional relationship specifications, and alternative

10 relationship specifications, and place the computing system in an acceptable sub-state. The priority ratings can contain an attribute assigned to a policy definition that determines a sequence for applying the policy definition. The attribute can be "mandatory", a numerical value, or "not required". The conditional relationship specifications have policy definitions that are applied when the state of a specified

15 resource meets a predetermined requirement. An alternative relationship specification has policy definitions and/or conditional relationship specifications that are applied when the state of a specified resource does not meet a predetermined requirement.